

Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

July 1992

Volume 2, Number 2

ELECTION RESULTS

LITERACY B.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

elected for a two year term are

Patricia Abe - Cariboo
Joan Acosta - Capilano
Erna Barwich - Fraser Valley
Dorothy Fast - Northern Lights
Mardi Joyce - Douglas
Rita Mandryk - Okanagan
Sue Port - Selkirk
Alan Smith - Malaspina
Mary Waddington - Vancouver **

MEMBERS AT LARGE

elected for a two year term are:

Vicki Bragan
Lorena Jensen
Jim Lippert
Maureen Stephens

Congratulations to all! The Board of Directors for 1992-93 will be all of these people, plus the people who have a one year term:

Michael Booker
Carmela Canino
Bob Gadsby
Phil Knight
Sandi Lavallie
Hong Ngo
Rose Pierre
Ken Reich
Fern Senior
Audrey Thomas
Lee Weinstein

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
HELPED ELECT SUCH A WONDERFUL
GROUP OF PEOPLE.**

** Since the election, Mary Waddington has accepted the job as Literacy Coordinator for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. She regrets that she cannot be the Literacy B.C. representative. A new regional representative for Vancouver will be elected prior to the Annual General Meeting in September. Our congratulations to Mary!! We're looking forward to working with her!



NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

PROJECT LITERACY ABBOTSFORD/MATSQUI

The past year has been an exciting and productive time for Project Literacy Abbotsford-Matsqui. Activity highlights include:

Public Awareness:

PLAM has continued to support touring performance of the literacy play, "Marks on Paper" performed by University College of the Fraser Valley former literacy students. The play has reached many audiences in the last year including in Nanaimo and Courtenay; the local business community in Abbotsford; and literacy learners at the first Northern Conference on Literacy held in Houston, B.C. in March 1992.

The Literacy Players gave their final performance of "Marks on Paper" at the University College of the Fraser Valley graduation ceremony, June 18, 1992, where they received commemorative plaques for their contributions to the play and to literacy over the past three years.



Program Delivery:

The MSA Hospital Learning Centre - a drop in academic upgrading centre designed to meet the needs of rotating shiftworkers at MSA Hospital in Abbotsford

The ESL Tutoring Project - a one-to-one tutoring program designed to introduce literacy to those in the Abbotsford community who speak English as their second language

Computer-Assisted ESL - a computer assisted instructional program designed for ESL literacy learners.

Learners Network:

"Overcoming the Barriers"

PLAM has helped to sponsor a new Learners' Network - a group of adult literacy learners working to support and encourage new adult literacy learners at UCFV. The literacy learners decided that the best way to launch a LEARNERS' NETWORK was through a video presentation.

This video Overcoming the Barriers outlines some of the difficulties adults face when making the decision to return to learning and introduces potential learners to the College literacy program. The video invites potential learners to contact a member of the LEARNERS' NETWORK for more information. A copy of this 15 minutes video has been sent to Literacy B.C.

DAWSON CREEK LITERACY SOCIETY

The Society has had a busy year getting a volunteer tutor program going and a Help Centre. A total of 32 tutors took training in sessions held in April and October of 1991. The Literacy Volunteers of America training program was used.

We held two tutor in-service evenings, one on learning disabilities and the other on the computer program "Word Attack". Tutors were invited to attend the literacy Resource Forum at Northern Lights College in January, the Regional Literacy Workshop in Ft. St. John in February and the Learner Event in Ft. St. John in April.

There were 39 potential students requesting tutoring during the past year. 12 students are presently working with tutors and 8 are waiting to be matched. Two thirds of the students are from English as a second language background. To meet this demand, the Society plans to offer an ESL tutor training course in the fall, purchase ESL teaching materials, and possibly offer informal small group instruction. It is hoped that Northern Lights College will offer formal ESL classes in the fall.

NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

Dawson Creek Literacy Society is located in the Nawican Friendship Centre. The Friendship Centre has given substantial support in various ways to the Society. The DCLS also publishes a monthly newsletter and participate in fundraising activities. The Society would like to buy another computer and encourage students to set up a learners' network.



FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY

The Fort St. John Literacy Society has had a very active year. We began with a display at the local mall for International Literacy Day and followed with the announcement that they had received funding for a joint project with Northern Lights College. The project called Can I Read Here? was designed to promote community literacy tutoring and has been highly successful. There are now 50 trained or prospective tutors, and 30 learners registered with the Society.

In February 1992, the society hosted a Regional meeting for everyone involved in literacy work in the Peace River region. About 20 people were able to attend. They had two guest speakers: Lee Weinstein, from Literacy B.C. and Phil Knight, from the Plain Language Institute.

The Society also obtained money for a regional Learners' Event in late April. Learners from the various institutions in the area attended. Learning circles were set up so that learners could visit the circles of their choice and have discussions with fellow learners. Participants enjoyed themselves and felt that the event should be made into an annual event with possible rotation between the various communities in the North.

We have had a busy and successful year and are looking forward to a good year ahead.

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

There have been lots of changes at the Adult Learning Program in Sooke School District. In September we welcomed Eleanor Bahr as our new Teacher/Coordinator. Eleanor comes from Ontario with a wide and interesting educational background and is a published author.

In January the Adult Learning Program moved from their place at Ruth King Elementary School to a wonderful space in a brand new building. We are now located at 3179 JACKLIN ROAD, ROOM 202. We are wheelchair accessible and share our bright area with the R.E.A.D. 2000 program (Resources in Education for the Adult Deaf).

In our search for more to offer learners, we now have access to the Pathfinder Learning System and to help us out with that is our new teacher, Doug Roy. Sadly, in March we had to say "Good-bye!" to Basha Rahn as she sets out for her new life in Williams Lake. The new Volunteer Tutor Coordinator is Diane Kirby, formerly the Student Resource Assistant at the Adult Learning Program.

The Adult Learning Program currently has over 85 active students and after the last tutor training session we have over 50 active volunteers.

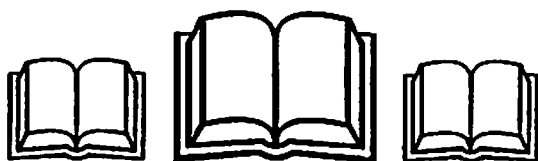
NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

THE FRASER VALLEY EAST LITERACY ASSOCIATION

The Fraser Valley East Literacy Association, Chilliwack, has been very active in the community during the past twelve months.

In that time we have:

- * Provided financial and other support to the formation of the AGASSIZ-HARRISON LITERACY GROUP.
- * Presented a Learners Event (with premises kindly provided by University College of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack). Students hosted, were speakers and as a panel, answered questions from the floor. The event was well attended.
- * Sponsored the "Joys of Sharing Books and Reading with Your Children" project. This was so successful, there is talk of repeating it.
- * Revised our brochure. A more up-to-date and attractive one will soon be available.
- * Appointed an Archivist/Librarian who is actively collating and arranging a lot of valuable material already on hand.
- * Provided, through our Speakers Bureau, an ongoing service to interested groups in the community.
- * Had three members of the Association attend the first national Family Literacy Conference at Chapel Hill, North Carolina in April 1992.



PROJECT LITERACY KELOWNA

Our tutoring project is completing the sixth year of operation since becoming a registered society in 1986. During this time we have enrolled nearly 300 people and many encouraging successes have been recorded.

This year 65 learners have been involved. 53 tutors have contributed their time and skills to our project and were honoured at our Tutor Recognition Day, an event held at the lovely lakeside home of our president, Mrs. Betty Knox. Earlier in the year, a luncheon was held to recognize five tutors who have been part of our program for over five years.

It has been an extremely busy, but satisfying year, usual difficulties of not enough time or money, despite that, the success stories continue to unfold.

BOOK II IS ON THE WAY.....

Bigger and better than *OUR WORDS Book I*! Our learners have contributed the stories and our tutor, Charley Adam, has done a picture for each story, so we are now looking for a sponsor.

Our Board of Directors and supporters continue to work on fundraising: the No-Bake Sale in February netted over \$1,000, a Giant Garage Sale at Western Public Market and a bottle drive with a twist. We are distributing garbage bags with our logo and phone number stamped on and inviting people to save their bottles and phone the number for pick up. It's working very well - the volunteer pick up driver, Maurice Parfitt, reports that he is very busy.

Project Literacy Kelowna has established a fund within the Central Okanagan Foundation. We believe that we may be the first literacy organization to establish a fund of this nature and we are indeed proud of this fact.

Recently we were invited by The United Way to become a member. Again, such acceptance validates our place, and the need for our services in this community.

NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

LITERACY NANAIMO

Literacy Nanaimo opened its Downtown Literacy Office in April of 1991. The office is in a highly visible, easily accessed downtown location. We feel this is the single most important thing that a community literacy group can do to establish credibility and accessibility in the community.

Other activities include:

- established a monthly newsletter (be sure to include potential funding sources and important political connections on your mailing list)
- established a system of monthly check-in phone calls with tutors
- developed a resource room including the "Autoskill" computer program for use of tutors and learners
- distributed book marks to every book store and library in the community
- organized and ran two highly successful workshops on "Literacy in the Workplace" with participants from local business, industry and labour
- in cooperation with Malaspina College trained 49 new Volunteer Tutors and matched 95 learners with tutors
- developed and currently are running a full-time Adult Basic Skill Program with 6 students sponsored by Canada Employment they are applying for Private Training Institute License
- recently Literacy Nanaimo has been given generous support from MacMillan Bloedel, Nanaimo Region and has become accepted as a member agency of United Way.

It has had a very busy and successful year. We are currently working with the Social Planning Department of the City of Nanaimo to set up the Mayor's Task Force on Literacy in the community.

PROJECT LITERACY RICHMOND

Since it's formation in April 1991, Project Literacy Richmond has been busy. The first project was a brochure listing where to get or give help in literacy in Richmond.

Next was a float in the Canada Day parade with **WORMSWORTH** the Bookworm following along behind. Smaller versions of Wormsworth helped to decorate our booth at the Steveston Salmon Festival, an annual event in our community.

The mayor was asked to declare Literacy Week in early September and started the week with a two day display in our largest shopping mall, complete with ongoing literacy videos, posters, brochures from all our member organizations and a large display of books from the Literacy Collection of Richmond Public Library. Large wall displays of literacy learners' writings were displayed at the City Hall, the public library and at the mall display.

Plans are now underway for another Canada Day float, a Salmon Festival booth, another mall display and possibly some special events in September.

Networking has been a valuable part of our activities. We have referred several people to Laubach tutor training workshops, and encouraged learners to contact Laubach. A local branch of the Soroptomist Club contacted us because they had funds for literacy, so we put them in touch with the newly-formed Richmond Council of Laubach Literacy who subsequently received \$1,800. to spend on badly needed books for students who could not afford textbooks and for material for new tutors.

Providing a speaker on literacy for the local Rotary Club resulted in a \$500 donation which we intend to spend on community awareness or on assistance to local groups offering literacy instruction. We feel there is a need for publicity through local radio or TV stations. If any other groups have produced brief public services announcements or radio jingles, we would like to hear from you.



NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

PROJECT LITERACY SURREY / DELTA

In November, Project Literacy Surrey/Delta invited author John Edward Sorrell to read from his book, In Broad Daylight, at George Mackie Library in Delta and Whalley Library in Surrey. Sorrell read from his book and talked about the way literacy changed his life and enabled him to move away from the poverty and violence of his childhood to become a writer and teacher. The Knowledge Network filmed the reading at George Mackie Library and presented a five minute segment on their program 'Arts Edge.'

Ene Haabniit prepared a brochure, 'Adult Learning Opportunities in Surrey and Delta'. The brochure has been sent to schools and social services agencies to let them know what opportunities for learning there are in Surrey and Delta.

In June, Project Literacy Surrey/Delta presented a **READING TENT** as part of the Fraser River Festival at Deas Island Regional park in Delta. **WORMSWORTH**, the giant bookworm, invited families into the tent to hear stories. The tent also featured information on literacy programs for adults and lots of tips on how to make reading a regular and enjoyable family routine. Read Canada, the University Women's Club of North Delta and Delrey Area Girl Guides Association helped Project Literacy with this event.

Please refer to the
**LBC Directory for
Literacy Group
contact names**

PROJECT LITERACY TERRACE

Contrary to recent reports, Project Literacy Terrace will not be strapped for funds in 1992-93. Thanks to grants from the Ministry of Social Services, Northwest Community College and the Ministry for Advanced Education, Training, and Technology, PLT will be able to continue to:

- * have training programs for volunteer tutors
- * offer learners a flexible assessment and matching procedure

It will also be able to:

- * produce and distribute a weekly "Plain English" newspaper for adults learning to read
- * compile and distribute a collection of writings on life and learning in Northwestern B.C.
- * operate a weekly scribe service for adults in need of help interpreting forms, bills, prescriptions, etc.

Project Literacy Terrace also hopes to have a free, intensive ESL program for new immigrants starting in September.

The new location of Project Literacy Terrace is:
Room 205, 4506 Lakelse,
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 4A2.

TUMBLER RIDGE LITERACY GROUP

Unfortunately, three of TRLG valued tutors moved over the summer of 1991, but the remaining nine have been kept busy with individual learners.

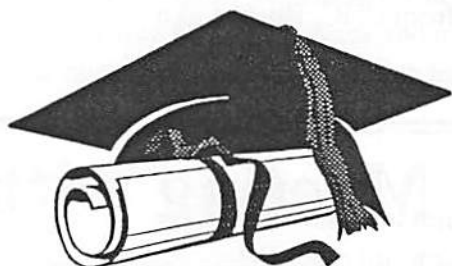
Two tutors attended a very good workshop in Dawson Creek and brought back useful materials to the other tutors.



NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

This spring Northern Lights College provided a tutor training course for ESL tutors following the Literacy Volunteers of America format. Twelve of the initial seventeen students completed the course which ran every Monday evening for six weeks. These tutors have been assigned learners who are attending the college in the ESL program, giving them extra help.

We have just had a very informative visit from Linda Mitchell and are looking forward to more training for tutors and an active awareness campaign in the fall.



PROJECT LITERACY WEST KOOTENAY

Project Literacy West Kootenay is now two years old. The volunteer tutoring program continues to grow. This past year we have trained more than 50 tutors in four communities. Many are now meeting with learners, and other tutor/learner matches continue from the year before. Our "Learners Get Together" in April was very successful, with learners from Nakusp to Rossland coming together for a day.

The literacy books purchased in 1991 have been distributed to the eleven libraries of the region. Most of the books are in rotating collections which will change libraries every few months. A list of items in the collection is available.

Last summer we were "paraded out" after entering our float in five parades. This year we are concentrating our efforts on celebrations for International Literacy Day.

Our cost shared grant is ending. We will carry on with the continuing support of the public libraries and Selkirk College and some fundraising.

VICTORIA READ SOCIETY

1st Annual Poetry Bash for Literacy - *Writes of Spring* -

When you want people to know the value of literacy, ask a poet for help! That is what the Victoria READ Society did.

Eighteen of Canada's top poets came together on Friday, May 1. They read their poems for "Writes of Spring". It was a benefit put on to help raise awareness for literacy. It was also to raise money for special reading and math classes for children who need extra help.

The idea of poets reading for literacy came from Stephen Reid, who wrote a book called *Jackrabbit Parole*. He knows that literacy changes people's lives. He worked with Melanie Austin, the director at READ, for many months to plan the benefit.

It was an exciting and entertaining evening, with over 200 people in the room. Each presentation was short so that there was lots of variety, from very funny to very serious.

Many of the poets won lots of media's honours and prizes for their work. It was a great chance to hear and see so many interesting people all in the same room!

The poets list included, P.K. Page, Dorothy Livesay, Al Purdy, Sujata Bhatt, Doug Beardsley, Linda Rogers, Margaret Blackwood, Brian Brett, Stephen Scobie, Anne Kelley, Kerry Slavesman, Charles Lillard, Robin Skelton, Derk Wynand, Susan Musgrave, Lesley Bourne and Patricia Young.

Ellen Szita, from the documentary *Ellen's Story* was a special guest. She reminded us all why we were there. After all the years of pain, Ellen was able to write and read for us the literacy poem she had always kept inside.

TALES OF NORTHERN B.C.

- a series of readers for adult basic literacy students -

Tales of Northern B.C. are books written for Canadian-born adult beginning readers who happen to live in the northern part of British Columbia. They were sponsored by the Burns Lake campus of the College of New Caledonia, and were supported by a cost-shared literacy grant.

The *Tales* are provided free to literacy programs and other public users while quantities last. Additional copies may be ordered by writing to:

Bill Graham
Northern Literacy Readers
College of New Caledonia
Box 5000
Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0

or calling 604-692-3175.

Copies not intended for literacy work may be purchased for \$4.30 each or \$25.80 per set of six (GST not included) from CNC, Burns Lake.

An Important Reminder

For Literacy Programs using Volunteers...

The deadline for applications for the Literacy B.C. REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS is:

OCTOBER 31, 1992

Workshop topics could include:

- Adult Learning Principles
- Volunteer Tutor Program Planning and Evaluation
- Working With and Coordination of Volunteers
- Language Acquisition, Reading, Writing Techniques and Math
- Working with Adult Learners
- Specific Needs, Specific Settings

CALL 687-5077

- or -

FAX 687-5076

for application forms

A Meeting with the Minister

In November 1991, Literacy B.C. developed A Discussion Paper Related to Addressing the Literacy Needs in British Columbia. This paper was sent to the Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, the Minister of Education, all our members, all MLA's, and other important folks. Since then, the Executive of Literacy B.C. has met with the Executive of the ABEABC about the issues discussed in the paper and with the Education Committee of the Liberal Caucus.

On August 13th, 1992, two members of the Literacy B.C. Executive and two members of the ABEABC Executive will meet with Dr. Perry, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology to discuss the many concerns about literacy and literacy programs in B.C.

We'll keep you posted!!





PETER GZOWSKI
INVITATIONAL

Last year's PETER GZOWSKI INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT for Literacy B.C. was great fun and a successful fundraiser - so we decided to make it an ANNUAL EVENT!

The real kicker this year.....ROYAL BANK OF CANADA is donating \$1 for every \$10 we raise! Your participation is more important than ever.

All funds from this event will help Literacy B.C. to provide training and resources to community groups across B.C. For information call 687-5077.



***Peter Gzowski
Invitational
Golf Tournament***

Your participation in this unique tournament will help Literacy B.C.

- provide information and support to literacy programs
- provide training and resources to existing and new community based programs
- promote and develop local and regional networks
- provide support for the development of a Provincial Learners Association
- inform government, media and the public about literacy issues

***Please be involved –
literacy is everybody's business***

Friday, August 28, 1992

University Golf Club

5185 University Blvd., Vancouver, B.C.

***11:30 a.m. – Registration Music and Fun
Complimentary Lunch, Beer***

1:00 p.m. – Shotgun Start Texas Scramble

6:00 p.m. – No Host Reception

7:00 p.m. – Dinner Prizes, Entertainment

WORLD LITERACY DAY

September 8, 1992

Literacy B.C. will again be preparing an information kit for anyone who is interested in planning events to raise awareness about literacy and local programs.

A very special opportunity will be available to help celebrate Literacy Day throughout the month of September.

THE WIND CANNOT READ.....

writings by adult new readers from British Columbia during International Literacy Year 1990.

This book, which is a collection of writings from the B.C. Book Voyage, will be ready early in September.

The publication of this book is a cost shared project with Literacy B.C., ABEABC, and Douglas College as partners. The selections were made by a committee of three learners and one teacher. The guidelines for choosing the writings were decided by a Provincial Learner Group. The book is a bound paperback with approximately 200 pages. 4000 copies will be sent to literacy groups and programs in B.C.

The information kit will include suggestions about how you can celebrate this book and World Literacy Day in your community. For more information call 687-5077.

Words of Praise . . .

Dear Literacy B.C.,

I want to take this opportunity to say how impressed I was with the recent Newsletter! It was fun and upbeat to read. The impression it gave was that Literacy B.C. is "in the know", connected, doing important work to encourage links among literacy workers, offering directly or indirectly valuable opportunities for funding and training. I thought it was wonderful that the Newsletter made a point of recognizing the work of people who are making a special contribution in the field of literacy.

Our Adult Program at Acwshalcta School is brand new, and so am I as the Adult Teacher at the school. I am glad that I (on behalf of the Nuxalk Education Authority) joined Literacy B.C. It is an important link to literacy work in the rest of B.C. for me and others in this remote community. I will certainly encourage the Nuxalk Education Authority to continue its membership in the future.

Wishing you the best in your work.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Wooldridge



A Report from the Literacy B.C. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has met three times since their election in June 1991. Between meetings, the many committees have met using conference calls. This past year, the Board has worked on developing policy and plans for achieving the following goals and objectives:

To Support Literacy Practitioners and Programs in B.C. by:

- ☐ providing information, support and professional development workshops to existing and new community-based groups
- ☐ conducting research about volunteer literacy programs in B.C.
- ☐ providing regional training events for volunteer tutor program coordinators, planners and trainers
- ☐ researching and developing policy related to Good Practice In Literacy Programs

To Build Community Partnerships for Literacy by:

- ☐ assisting with the evaluation of the cost shared projects process
- ☐ keeping government informed about literacy issues
- ☐ consulting with MAETT about the Labour Force Development Board, the B.C. Human Resource Development Project; PLAC
- ☐ coordinating and planning 8 regional workshops on Public Awareness
- ☐ Assisting with the Northern Conference on literacy
- ☐ publishing a bi-monthly Newsletter
- ☐ developing a task force on Workplace Literacy and providing workshops and resources

To Support Adult Learners in B.C. by:

- ☐ encouraging and supporting the development of a Provincial Learners Association
- ☐ having at least six learners on the Literacy B.C. Board each year
- ☐ providing training as needed
- ☐ assist learners in presenting a workshop at the ABEABC Conference
- ☐ assisting with the production and distribution of the BC Book Voyage publication

To Strengthen Literacy B.C. as a provincial Network by:

- ☐ having over 500 members
- ☐ developing a long range fundraising plan
- ☐ developing a staff evaluation procedure



BULLETIN BOARD

ATTENTION . . . ATTENTION . . .

Calling all Marks on Paper Cast Members, Directors, Producers, Organizers, etc.

Have you been involved with Marks on Paper in any way during the past 13 years (1979-1992)? If so, I would like to talk to you about your involvement with the play.

After having been co-director/co-producer for the Literacy Players of Project Literacy Abbotsford-Matsqui for the past three years, I am writing my Master's thesis at the University of B.C. on the history of the play and its application in learning environments. I would like to have as many people as possible from around the province participate in my research project on Marks On Paper.

If you have been involved in any way with the play, please contact me, Cynthia Andruske, for further information about the research project at my home telephone (604) 858-2590 or work (604) 853-7441 (local 4319).

I look forward to discussing Marks on Paper with you.

Desktop Publishing by

Crystal Clear Computer Services Ltd.
#1227 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1L8 (604) 682-7337

National Opportunity for Literacy Involvement

The Movement for Canadian Literacy is having their next Annual General Meeting in Ottawa this October. They are looking for individuals to run for the Board of Directors.

You can get nomination forms from the Literacy B.C. office or by calling MCL at 613-563-2464. The form must be returned to MCL by AUGUST 20, 1992.

Because MCL is wanting to elect a strong and representative Board, they will conduct the election, for the first time, by mail-in-vote (which is the way Literacy B.C. holds the Board election as well).

This kind of vote makes it easier for individuals in B.C. and other areas across Canada to be involved with literacy on a national level - which helps everyone. We encourage all of you who are interested and have some extra energy to take advantage of this opportunity.

For more info call Mardi Joyce at 527-5416.

WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C., founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, and by donations.

Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments. Send to:

LITERACY B.C.
#1128 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Telephone: 687-5077 Fax: 687-5076

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. This newsletter will be published bi-monthly.